

Message Text

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S E C R E T JERUSALEM 2062

EXDIS (HANDLE AS NODIS)

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNSC, IS, LE
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON: ILMAC MEETING JULY 30 - ISRAEL EXPRESSES
OBJECTION TO LAF MOVE SOUTH JULY 31.

REF: BEIRUT 4306

1. AT ILMAC MEETING HELD NAQOURA MORNING JULY 30, LEBANESE PROVIDED DETAILS ON MOVEMENT OF BATTALION SOUTH. ROUTE GENERALLY THE SAME AS REPORTED BY EMBASSY BEIRUT EXCEPT IT NOW PASSES THROUGH MARJAYOUN RATHER THAN BETWEEN THAT TOWN AND EL KHIAM. (PREVIOUS DAY UNIFIL STAFF OFFICERS WERE INFORMED IN BEIRUT TASK FORCE WOULD START MOVE 0500 LOCAL JULY 31 ARRIVE KAUKABA AT 1000 HOURS LOCAL ARRIVING IN TIBNIN LATE AFTERNOON. FOR TEXT OF REPORT SEE SEPTTEL.) ISRAELIS STRESSED PLANNED ROUTE PRESENTED TWO PROBLEMS: (A) AREA BETWEEN KFAR MISHKE AND KAUKABA UNDER PALESTINIAN CONTROL THEREBY RISKING INTERDICTION OF SUPPLY LINES; AND (B) ROUTE PASSES THROUGH MARJAYOUN AND ADEISSE BOTH UNDER CHRISTIAN CONTROL THEREBY RISKING TROUBLE

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FROM MILITIAS.

2. LEBANESE ASKED WHAT WOULD BE ISRAELI ATTITUDE IF TROUBLE OCCURRED. ISRAELIS GAVE ASSURANCES THEY WOULD NOT INTERVENE. THEIR RAISING POTENTIAL PROBLEMS WAS ONLY ADVISORY, NOT WARNING. LEBANESE REPORTEDLY STATED THAT CHOICE OF ROUTE, DEPLOYMENT AND TIMING WAS ACCORDING TO BOTH POLITICAL AND MILITARY

CONSIDERATIONS OF WHICH LEBANON ALONE WAS THE JUDGE (SIC).

3. LEBANESE FURTHER REPORTED ISRAELIS GAVE ADVICE AND ASKED QUESTIONS (NOT SPECIFIED). THEY THEN SAID THEY WOULD REPORT TO THEIR AUTHORITIES AND EITHER PROVIDE AGREEMENT OR RETURN TO NAQOURA IN THE AFTERNOON IF THEY HAD RESERVATIONS ON THE MOVE. AT 1020 GMT LT. COL. GAL SPOKE ON THE PHONE FROM ROSH HANIKRA WITH COL. YOUNES. ACCORDING TO YOUNES, GAL REITERATED THAT ISRAELIS WOULD NOT INTERVENE IF TROUBLE OCCURRED BUT ADVISED THAT MOVE SOUTH ON JULY 31 NO OCCUR BECAUSE OF THE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS MENTIONED BY THEM AT THE MEETING.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS OBVIOUSLY AN AMBIGUOUS OUTCOME. AT OUTSET, ISRAELIS INSISTED UN OFFICERS LEAVE MEETING. ABOVE ACCOUNT AND FULL REPORT TO UNNY BASED ON WHAT LEBANESE TOLD ESPINASSY AFTERWARDS. ACCORDING TO LEBANESE, SUBJECT OF HADDAD AND SHIDIAK DID NOT COME UP WHICH SEEMS HARD TO BELIEVE. IT MAY BE GOL HAS REACHED UNDERSTANDING WITH HADDAD AND SHIDIAK. HOWEVER, IN THE ABSENCE OF CERTAINTY ON THIS POINT AND IN VIEW OF THEIR INTENTION TO TRANSIT MARJAYOUN, IT WOULD APPEAR GOL RISKS: (A) HAVING TASK FORCE STOPPED BY MILITAS SOON AFTER IT ENTERS UNIFIL AREA OF OPERATIONS; AND (B) BEING FIRED ON IF IT ATTEMPTS TO PROCEED OVER OBJECTIONS OF MILITIAS. BEIRUT 4306 INDICATES GOL INTENDS TO GO AHEAD ANYWAY.

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5. THIS MESSAGE SHOULD BE READ TOGETHER WITH TEXTS OF UN REPORTS ON ILMAC AND BEIRUT MEETINGS SENT SEPTELS.

6. ISRAEL RADIO HAS JUST REPORTED ILMAC MEETING AND SAID IT DEALT WITH TECHNICALITIES AND NO DECISIONS WERE TAKEN. RADIO ALSO SAYS CHRISTIAN LEADERS HAVE EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO ENTRY OF LAF UNITS SINCE THEY WOULD BE UNDER CONTROL OF SYRIA.
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